for those sports personalities, to encourage them and to develop their sports career to the international standards; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHA KRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Though the talented sportspersons from remote hilly & tribal areas are inducted in National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC), Army Boys Sports Companies (ABSC). SAI Training Centres (STC) and Centre of Excellence (COX) schemes of SAI, it is the Special Area Games (SAG) scheme which is specially focussed on talent scouting and nurturing of genetically gifted children from remote, hilly, costal and tribal areas of the country. The scheme also envisages tapping of talent from indigenous games and martial arts and from the regions which are either genetically or geographically advantageous for excellence in a particular sports discipline.

Sports Academies in H.P.

1189. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals for setting up sports academies in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, at which places such academies are being set up; and

(c) by when the proposals would materialise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHA KRISHNAN): (a) to (c) The State Sports Academies Scheme is yet to be finalised by the Government.

Financial Assisance to Meritorious Sports Persons

1190. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the sad state of affairs of many retired sports person who had represented India at the national /international levels;

(b) if so, whether Government have floated any scheme to help them; if so, the details thereof;